<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented): An image forming device configured to be connected to a plurality of other image forming devices via a network, said image forming device comprising:

a management unit configured to manage the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device; and

a selection unit, provided in said image forming device, configured to select a managing image forming device to manage the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device,

wherein the managing image forming device is selected by said selection unit out of a group including the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, further comprising:

a web server; and

a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of the managing image forming device selected by said selection unit.

4. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, further comprising:

an enabling unit configured to enable said management unit when the managing image forming device selected by said selection unit is said image forming device.

5. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, further comprising:

a disabling unit configured to disable said management unit when the managing

image forming device selected by said selection unit is not said image forming device.

6. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, wherein said

management unit comprises:

a receiving unit configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to

the network;

a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from the plurality of

other image forming devices;

a configuration setting unit configured to set configurations for the plurality of other

image forming devices; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit information to the user station.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, wherein said

selection unit comprises a comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of

the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device.

9. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, further comprising:

a checking unit configured to check if another image forming device is managing the

plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device.

10. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 9, further

comprising:

a disabling unit configured to disable the management unit when the another image

forming device is managing the plurality of other image forming devices and said image

forming device;

a web server; and

a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a

web server of the another image forming device.

11. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a plurality of image forming devices connected to a network,

wherein each image forming device of said plurality of ~~peripheral~~ image forming

devices comprises:

a management unit configured to manage said plurality of image forming

devices; and

a selection unit, provided in each image forming device, [[f]] configured to

select a managing image forming device to manage said plurality of image forming devices,

wherein said managing image forming device is selected by said selection unit out of

a group including said plurality of image forming devices, which includes image forming

devices other than said image forming .

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11, wherein each image forming

device further comprises:

a web server; and

18. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 14, wherein said management unit comprises:

a receiving unit configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network;

a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices;

a configuration setting unit configured to set configurations for said plurality of image forming devices; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit information to said user station.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 13, wherein said selection unit comprises a comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming devices.

21. (Previously Presented): A method for managing a plurality of image forming devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

using an image forming device of said plurality of image forming devices to select a managing image forming device to manage said plurality of image forming devices;

managing said plurality of image forming devices from said managing image forming device; and

setting default URLs of web servers for said image forming devices to correspond to a web server for said managing image forming device,

wherein said managing image forming device is selected out of a group including said

plurality of image forming devices, which includes image forming devices other than said

image forming device used to select said managing image forming device.

22. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

disabling a management unit of image forming devices other than said managing

image forming device.

23. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing

from said managing image forming device comprises the step of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network.

24. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing

from said managing image forming device comprises the step of:

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of image forming devices.

25. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing

from said managing image forming device comprises the steps of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network;

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of image forming devices;

setting configurations for said plurality of image forming devices; and

sending information to said user station.

26. (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of printing.

27. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said step of selecting

comprises a step of comparing a characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming

devices.

28. (Previously Presented): A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in

the computer storage medium for causing a image forming device to manage a plurality of

image forming devices connected to a network, the computer program code mechanism

comprising:

a first computer code device configured to manage said plurality of image forming

devices from a managing image forming device; and

a second computer code device configured to select said managing image forming

device to manage said plurality of image forming devices,

wherein said managing image forming device is selected out of a group including said

plurality of image forming devices, which includes image forming devices other than said

image forming device used to select said managing image forming device.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 28, further

comprising:

a second computer code device configured to check which image forming device is

managing said plurality of image forming devices.

31. (Original): The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

a third computer code device configured to enable said first computer code device.

32. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

a third computer code device configured to disable said first computer code device and to set a URL of a web server to correspond to a web server for said managing image forming device.

33. (Original): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network.

34. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices.

35. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connect to said network;

a third computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices;

a fourth computer code device configured to set configurations for said plurality of

image forming devices; and

a fifth computer code device configured to send information to said user station.

36. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said

second computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to compare

a characteristic for each of said plurality of image forming devices.

37-40. (Cancelled).

41. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, wherein said

image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine,

a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

42. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, wherein said

selection unit comprises a comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of

the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device, and wherein the

characteristic is central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.

43. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11, wherein at least one image

forming device of said plurality of image forming devices is a printer, a multi-function

peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

44. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11, wherein said selection unit

comprises a comparing unit configured to compare a characteristic for each of said plurality

of image forming devices, and wherein the characteristic is central processing unit

performance, memory size, or average load.

45. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said one image

forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a

copy machine, or a combination thereof.

46. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the characteristic is

central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.

47. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said

one image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax

machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

48. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the

characteristic is central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load.